



November 19, 2019

The Salvation Army Residences, Inc. (Silvercrest)
Attn: Sharon King, Property Manager
1050 Third Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

REMOVAL OF A BUNJA BUNJA TREE LOCATED AT 50 MONTGOMERY DRIVE

APN: 009-082-003
ZONING: PD, 0067 (Planned Development)
GENERAL PLAN: Office
FILE NO: TR19-035

On May 24, 2019, the Planning and Economic Development Department received an application requesting approval to remove an approximately 120-foot tall Bunja bunja tree located adjacent to the driveway along the northwestern property line of 50 Montgomery Drive. The application included an evaluation of the tree, prepared by Chip Sandborn, Sandborn Tree Service, Inc., dated May 6, 2019, concluding the subject tree was an imminent hazard because tree branches are heavily weighted making them prone to failure; the tree produces large cones that, if dropped, are unsafe; and the proximity of the tree to a common garden area used by Silvercrest residents.

In a letter from Sharron King, the applicant representative, dated May 25, 2019, the following reasons for removal were provided:

1. In May 2019, the tree was pruned at a cost of \$3,920. "The cost to maintain the tree is high due to the danger of the tree maintenance crew."
2. Wind-blown tree branches occur in the garden which is used regularly by seniors.
3. Fallen tree branches are dangerous and difficult to handle.
4. Regular maintenance does not guarantee that all cones have been removed.
5. The sidewalk is damaged from the tree.
6. While the tree was being pruned, power was turned off to minimize danger due to damage from falling branches.

After conducting a site visit and observing that the tree appeared to be in good condition, staff requested The Professional Tree Care Co. conduct an evaluation of the subject Bunja bunja tree. A second evaluation, prepared by Brian Fenske, President,

Arboricultural Specialties, concluded that "The tree appears, in all respects, to be healthy and structurally stable."

A revised copy of the Fenske evaluation is attached and provides recommendations for continued health of the tree including spraying for bark beetle and irrigating during periods of drought.

The request to remove the tree has been denied after the following findings were made:

1. The necessity to remove the tree was not successfully demonstrated. Both the beetle infestation and removal of cones and dead or heavy foliage can be controlled through regular maintenance.
2. The Bunja bunja tree is of significant size and maturity and provides aesthetic benefit to persons living in the vicinity.

This action is subject to appeal within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this denial. At your request, I've forwarded the Appeal application under separate cover. In the event that the end of the appeal period falls on a non-workday, the appeal period will be extended to include the next business day. Appeals of Tree Removal applications are reviewed by the Planning Commission. Reasons for an appeal must be made in writing on a completed Appeal application form, and submitted, with the appropriate fees, to:

City of Santa Rosa
Planning and Economic Development
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me; I can be reached by phone at (707) 543-4348, or by email at smurray@srcity.org.


SUSIE MURRAY
Senior Planner

Attachment

C: The Professional Tree Care Company, P.O. Box 2377, Berkeley, CA 94702
Sandborn Tree Service, Inc. 119 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472
File